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SC ASKS CENTRE TO FILE REPORT ON AIR INDIA PLANE CRASH PROBE

The Supreme Court asked the Centre on Wednesday to file a brief report on the procedural protocol followed so far in the investigation

PROBE BY AAIB NEARING ITS END, GOVT TELLS SC

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta told the Supreme Court that a fact-finding inquiry by the Aircraft Accident Investigation Board (AAIB) is currently underway in accordance with international commitments and is likely to be completed in three weeks. The bench was hearing three petitions seeking an independent, court-monitored investigation into the crash

COURT GIVES THREE-WEEK DEADLINE

- Mehta urged a bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi that the three pleas be listed after three weeks
- "Let us see the result of the AAIB probe and then we will see whether a court of inquiry will be needed or not," the CJI said and fixed the pleas for hearing after three weeks | PTI

June 12, 2025

WHEN AIR INDIA FLIGHT TO LONDON CRASHED IN AHMEDABAD

CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

UNION BUDGET DEBATE

States to get over ₹25L cr in FY27: FM

PUSHPITA DEY @ New Delhi

FINANCE Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday rejected allegations levelled by several Opposition-ruled states that the Centre was not transferring states' share from the divisible pool of taxes.

The Union finance minister, in her reply to the Budget discussion in the Lok Sabha, said that the Centre has transferred the full 41% share of divisible taxes to the states as mandated by the Finance Commission.

"The states should check if the entire net proceeds, which form the divisible pool, i.e., removing cess and surcharge from gross tax revenue, are received by them. There is no need to discuss the gross tax revenue," the minister said.

The finance minister said the Centre has allocated ₹25.44 lakh crore to states in FY27. "This much money will go to the states. This entails an increase of ₹2.70 lakh crore from FY26," Sitharaman said.

Commenting on the transfer of cess and surcharges, she clarified that these are collected for a purpose and if states can come up with proposals on health, education and roadways, they will get the funds. "Cess and surcharge collected by the Centre are given to the states for development work in various sectors. This is separate from the 41% of funds allocated to the states."

Debunking allegations that the government was not approving credits to the states, the finance minister stated the total credit has grown 13.8% in the current financial year.

She pointed out that headline capital expenditure stands at ₹12.2 lakh crore while the effective capital expenditure, including grants to states, totals ₹17.1 lakh crore, amounting to 4.4% of the GDP.

Bharat Mata has been sold: Rahul

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

AFTER being repeatedly blocked from quoting ex-Army Chief General M M Naravane's unpublished memoir in the Lok Sabha last week, Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday mounted a sharp attack on the government over the India-US trade deal framework, accusing the Modi administration of having "sold off the nation" and terming it as a "wholesale surrender".

Participating in the debate on the Union Budget, Rahul said he does not believe that any Indian PM, including Narendra Modi, would agree to such a deal unless there is a "chokehold" on him.

"Why has he sold India? Because the US are choking him. They have a grip on his neck."

Rahul asserted that the trade agreement had undermined farmers' interests, destroyed the textile sector, and handed India's energy security to the US. Calling it a surrender of the future of 1.5 billion Indians, he said it was driven by the need to protect the BJP's financial architecture, which he said is facing scrutiny in the US. "The US will decide who we buy oil from. They will monitor."

He accused the government of opening the door to mechanised American farms, thereby crushing India's small farmers, and called the move disgraceful, saying that no PM before had done such a thing, nor would any after him. "How can you come to this House and defend this? Are you not ashamed of what you are giving away? Are you not ashamed of selling India? You have sold our mother — Bharat Mata?" he said.

The House saw heated exchanges after Rahul referred to Union minister Hardeep Puri and industrialist Anil Ambani in connection with mentions in the Epstein files.

ALL SET FOR THE BIG DAY

Election officials check ballot boxes and voting materials after collecting them ahead of polls, in Dhaka, on Wednesday | AP

Hopes, apprehensions as B'desh goes to polls

BANGLADESH heads to the polls on Thursday under an unprecedented political landscape, following the sudden exit of former PM Sheikh Hasina after a mass upsurge in 2024. The election is set to be a unique experience for voters, many of whom will cast their ballots for the first time. Citizens will also vote in a referendum on constitutional reforms.

BAYEZID MILKY
Senior journalist based in Dhaka

The main contest is between the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami. The new National Citizen Party (NCP), which emerged from the mass movement against Hasina, joined the race as part of an 11-party alliance with Jamaat. The BNP was expected to dominate in the absence of the Awami League. However, Jamaat claims it has built a strong base and is positioning itself as a formidable challenger. In previous elections, Jamaat's support hovered below 10%, while BNP secured over 30%. With the Awami League out, many believed BNP would secure a comfortable majority. But Jamaat's renewed presence has complicated the electoral arithmetic, raising the prospect of a close fight.

NCP has struggled to maintain its momentum. It is contesting just 30 out of 300 parliamentary seats. Around 50 parties are in the contest.

Voters will cast two ballots while the absence of the Awami League has left many uncertain. The Election Commission has warned counting may take longer due to dual ballots and higher turnout. Authorities say the February 12 vote will shape Bangladesh's future, and citizens hope for a fair and peaceful election.

DRIVER CHASED, ARRESTED

Girls, aged 4 & 2, mowed down by school bus in city

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

TWO girls, aged four and two, died after they were mowed down by a school bus near the police quarters in Hegde Nagar in Hennur traffic police limits around 8.10 am on Wednesday. The girls were cousins.

Bhanu

Varsha

The accident occurred when the school bus driver was trying to escape after crashing into an autorickshaw nearby. He rammed into the scooter on which the two kids were travelling. The children fell on the road, came under the front wheels of the bus, and died during treatment.

The father of the two-year-old is a police constable attached to the City Armed Reserve (CAR). When the driver tried to escape again, policemen at the police quarters chased and stopped him. The deceased were four-year-old D Bhanu Mali Patil, who was from Lingasugur in Raichur district, and two-year-old N Varsha Mali Patil, a resident of Hegde Nagar Police Quarters. **CONTINUED ON: P3**

EXPRESS READ

Techie kills retd Navy capt dad, mom

Bengaluru: A software engineer has been arrested for stabbing to death his parents — 60-year-old retired Navy captain Naveen Chandra Bhat and his 55-year-old wife, Dr Shyamala Bhat, a dentist — at their residence in Vignan Nagar on Wednesday. Though the exact motive behind the crime is yet to be ascertained, police suspect it was over a family dispute. The victims were attacked at Villa No. 112 in Adarsh Vista around 7.30 am | P3

Shri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

Shri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT PUBLICATION

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TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT

In accordance with Rule 125 (C) of the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, all regular buses and sleeper coach buses registered in the State shall mandatorily comply with the provisions to implement the following safety measures :

- AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY STANDARD
- CODE OF PRACTICE FOR BUS BODY DESIGN AND APPROVAL AIS-052/AIS-153
- REQUIREMENTS FOR SLEEPER COACH BUSES AIS-119
- PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM

Shri Ramalinga Reddy
Hon'ble Minister for Transport & Muzrai,
Government of Karnataka

01 The partition door installed behind the driver in all sleeper coach buses registered in the State shall be removed

02 Sliders fitted to sleeper berths in all sleeper coach buses shall be removed

03 All sleeper coach buses registered on or after 01-04-2019 shall be equipped with a Fire Detection and Suppression System (FDSS)

04 In contravention of the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and the Rules made there under transportation of commercial goods in passenger buses including sleeper coach buses is strictly prohibited

05 Operation of buses constructed by unauthorized extension of chassis shall be discontinued forthwith

06 Every bus shall have a design layout drawing indicating emergency exits location of fire extinguishers, and roof hatches affixed inside the vehicle at a place easily visible and readable to passengers

07 As per the standards prescribed under Bus Body Code AIS:119, Buses up to 12 metres in length shall have a minimum of four (4) emergency exits and Buses exceeding 12 metres in length shall have a minimum of five (5) emergency exits

08 In buses constructed with body structure conforming to AIS:052 and AIS:119, luggage carriers provided on the roof and ladders shall be removed

09 All sleeper coach buses shall be fitted with fire extinguishers of minimum capacity of 10 kilograms

10 Bus body building agencies shall possess a valid certificate under Rule 126 of the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 and only vehicles manufactured by such certified agencies shall be registered

11 Vehicles will be registered only after verification of the certificate forms 22 and 22A issued by the approved testing agencies

It is hereby notified that failure to comply with the above directions on or before 28-02-2026 shall attract strict action under the provisions of Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and the Rules framed thereunder against the vehicle owners concerned.

Sd/-
Commissioner
Transport & Road Safety